

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3011

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PO

SUBJECT: BREAK UP OF CDS PARTY CONGRESS

REF: LISBON 442

1. SITUATION IN PORTUGAL IS LEAD STORY IN MANY BELGIAN PAPERS, BEGINNING WITH AFTERNOON EDITIONS OF MONDAY, JANUARY 27 CONTINUING ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 28. PRESENCE AT OPORTO CDS PARTY CONGRESS OF 3 BELGIAN OBSERVERS (NOTHOMB, MARTENS AND VAN AAL-THE FIRST TWO CO-PRESIDENTS OF BELGIUM PSC-CVP, THE THIRD, THE BRUSSELS PSC MINISTER OF FRENCH CULTURE) SHOULD ENSURE CONTINUING LOCAL PRESS INTEREST.

2. REPRESENTATIVE OF PRESS TREATMENT ARE CATHOLIC LABOR ORIENTED HET VOLK AND CATHOLIC DE NIEUWE GIDS HEADLINE: "LEFTIST FASCISM THREATENS PORTUGAL"; INFLUENTIAL CATHOLIC CONSERVATIVE LA LIBRE BELGIQUE: "PORTUGAL MENACED BY CIVIL WAR;" INFLUENTIAL CATHOLIC DE STANDAARD: "THREAT OF LEFTIST DICTATORSHIP IN PORTUGAL;" MASS CIRCULATION INDEPENDENT LE SOIR: "PORTUGUESE LEFTISTS PREVENT CENTER PARTY FROM MEETING;" SOCIALIST LE PEUPLE (ON PAGE 7): "PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST PARTY STAYS IN GOVERNMENT TO GUARANTEE ELECTIONS AND TO AVOID MANEUVERES AGAINST WORKING CLASS;" AND COMMUNIST PARTY ORGAN LE DRAPEAU ROUGE (ON PAGE 5): "WHERE ARE

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THE SOCIALISTS GOING?"

3. OPORTO VIOLENCE REPORTED OBJECTIVELY (EXCEPT IN
SOCIALIST AND COMMUNIST PRESS) AND SEVERAL PAPERS EDITORIALY
EXPRESS CONCERN AT EVOLUTION OF SITUATION IN PORTUGAL. TV SHOWED
CLIPS OF VIOLENCE AND INTERVIEWED BELGIAN EYEWITNESSES
ON THEIR RETURN FROM OPORTO SUNDAY NIGHT. DENIALS BY PORTUGESE
COMMUNIST PARTY OF A HAND IN THE VIOLENCE AT OPORTO ARE NOTED.
SOCIALIST PRESS EDITORIALIZED ON NEED FOR ELECTIONS, NEED TO PERMIT
EXISTENCE OF ALL POLITICAL GROUPINGS AND NEED TO MAINTAIN ALLIANCE
OF ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT WITH COMMUNIST, SOCIALIST AND POPULAR
DEMOCRATS. COMMUNIST PRESS ATTACKS PORTUGESE SOCIALIST
PARTY FOR ITS OPPOSITION TO PORTUGESE COMMUNISTS AND DOWN PLAYS
SIGNIFICANCE OF OPORTO EVENTS. RENNER

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